

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a fuel cell stack, comprising:
providing a fuel flow to the fuel cell stack to produce power, at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack being consumed by a first load;
in response to a decrease in at least one of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and the power consumed by the first load, determining whether to route at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load to a second load; and
based on the determination, selectively routing said at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load to the second load.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining comprises:
determining whether the second load is capable of receiving said at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein
the second load comprises a battery; and
the determining comprises determining whether the battery is capable of being charged using said power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein
the second load comprises a battery; and
the selectively routing comprises selectively charging the battery based on the determination.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the charging comprises regulating a terminal voltage of the battery to cause the battery to charge.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
decreasing the fuel flow in response to the detection of the decrease.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the routing occurs until the fuel flow is decreased to a level at which the power routed to the second load is approximately zero.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing comprises operating a fuel processor to provide the fuel flow.

Claims 9-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: selectively routing said at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load between the second load and an oxidizer.

20. (New) A method of operating a fuel cell stack, comprising:
providing a fuel flow to the fuel cell stack to produce power, at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack being consumed by a load;
in response to a decrease in at least one of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and the power consumed by the load, determining an energy storage capacity of a battery; and
based on the determination, selectively raising a terminal voltage of the battery to cause at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the load to be routed to the battery.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the act of selectively raising comprises:
raising the terminal voltage to cause said at least some of the to be routed to the battery in response to the energy storage capacity indicating the battery can be charged.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the determining comprises:
observing the terminal voltage of the battery to determine the energy storage capacity of the battery.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the determining comprises:
observing charge flowing into and out of the battery to determine the energy storage
capacity of the battery.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the selectively raising comprises:
selectively increasing an output voltage of a voltage regulator based on the determination.

25. (New) A method comprising:
providing a fuel flow to a fuel cell stack to produce power, at least some of the power
produced by the fuel cell stack being consumed by a first load;
in response to a decrease in at least one of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and
the power consumed by the first load, determining an energy state of a second load; and
based on the determination, selectively taking an action to cause at least some of the
power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load to be routed to the
second load.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the taking the action comprises:
changing an electrical parameter associated with the second load to cause said at least
some of the power to be routed to the second load.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the second load comprises a battery.